

**FIRE RESTRICTION AND EMERGENCY CLOSURE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES  
SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, REGION FIVE  
2013**

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Forest Supervisor

Date 29 April 2013

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## **I. Introduction**

These procedures cover fire restrictions or emergency fire closures in addition to those contained in Regional Order No. 91-1 "General Fire Restrictions". The Forest Supervisor has the authority (FSH 5109.18, 50) to issue fire restrictions. This action is applicable for a categorical exclusion pursuant to direction in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, 32.12, Subsection 1. Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR Part 261 – Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety. [36 CFR 220.6(d)(1)]

## **II. Objective**

The objectives of these procedures are to reduce the risk of human-caused fires on the Sequoia National Forest, that can threaten public and firefighter safety, human health, and cause costly resource damage.

## **III. Summary of Fire Restrictions and Emergency Closure**

- A. Fire Restrictions are imposed by a Forest Order, an example is shown as Exhibit A. These restrictions are imposed when the implementation criteria are met.
1. No campfires using wood or charcoal are allowed outside of a Developed Recreation Site. Lanterns or portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed. A campfire permit is required outside a Developed Recreation Site.
  2. No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or at a Developed Recreation Site.
  3. No operation of internal combustion engines except on National Forest Systems roads and trails, or unless otherwise authorized.
  4. No welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame.
  5. No use of explosives.
- B. Emergency Fire Closures are imposed by a Forest Order. This is a temporary order prohibiting entry to specific roads, trail and areas within the Forest due to public health and safety and/or a wildland fire emergency exists.

## **IV. Implementation Procedures**

The implementation of forest fire restrictions should be prior to weekends and holidays. The public, other agencies and forest employees will be informed of the forthcoming restrictions in a timely manner.

- A. Fire Restrictions may be implemented by specific Fire Danger Rating Areas for each Ranger District or on the entire forest when the burning index reaches the following:
1. Hume Lake RD: the NFDRS Burning Index, measured within Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA) 438, equals a 70 or greater Burning Index for three (3) consecutive days with predicted stable or upward trends OR,

2. Kern River RD: the NFDRS Burning Index, measured within Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA) 445, equals 170 or greater for three (3) consecutive days with predicted stable or upward trends, OR
  3. Western Divide RD: the NFDRS Burning Index, measured within Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA) 438, equals a 70 or greater Burning Index for three (3) consecutive days with predicted stable or upward trends, AND
  4. adjacent forests and cooperating agencies are notified of conditions, and coordination between forests are established, AND
  5. notification is made to the Emergency Operations Coordinator at South Operations that restrictions are proposed to be implemented, AND
  6. the Forest Order is reviewed by the Regional Office Law Enforcement Group, AND
  7. the Forest Order is signed by the Forest Supervisor.
- B. Emergency Closure may be implemented when public health and safety and/or a wildland fire emergency exists and:
1. A Forest Order is prepared for the Forest Supervisor's signature that includes:
    - a. a map (1/4" = mile) identifying the area(s) and/or roads recommended for closure, AND
    - b. a single page summary of conditions justifying the request for closure,
    - c. and is then forwarded to the Regional Office Law Enforcement Group for review, AND
  2. the Forest Order is signed by the Forest Supervisor.
- D. Cancellation of Forest Fire Restrictions and Emergency Fire Closures will be accomplished by a Forest Order, signed by the Forest Supervisor.
- E. Forest Service Activities will be governed by the same fire restrictions as stated in activity contracts. The restrictions will be based on "wind speed" and "fuel stick", or Energy Release Component (ERC) and Ignition Component (IC) charts applicable to the appropriate fuel model and weather station location.
- F. Fuelwood will be governed by the following fire provisions:
1. Power saws and other internal combustion engines shall be equipped with approved spark arresters in effective working order. A power saw exhaust system must include a non-flammable woven screen with a maximum opening of 0.023 of an inch.
- Power saws and other internal combustion engines shall be tested and approved under Forest Service Interim Standards issued January 14, 1977 as amended (36 CFR 261.52j and PRC 4442).
- The Permittee must have a serviceable round point shovel, with an overall length of not less than 46 inches, or an approved pressurized chemical-type fire extinguisher, with at least a 14 ounce capacity for each powersaw.
- The required fire tools shall at no time be farther from the point of operation of the powersaw than 25 feet with unrestricted access for the operator (PRC 4431).

2. Fuelwood operations using power saws or internal combustion engines are subject to daily restrictions based on the "Predicted Fire Danger Rating". The Fire Danger Rating being predicted for the following day is available at the Ranger District offices after 4:30 p.m. each day. It is the Permittee's responsibility to obtain the predicted Fire Danger Rating before beginning work. Power saw use shall be governed by the following:

FIRE DANGER RATING	RESTRICTIONS
Low and Moderate	All day cutting.
High	No cutting dead firewood after 1:00 PM (Hoot Owl)
Very High	No cutting dead firewood all day (Shut Down)
Extreme	No chainsaw or other internal combustion engine use all day

3. Generally, smoking is allowed within an enclosed vehicle or building, or a Developed Recreation Site, a designated smoking area or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

During Fire Restrictions, no smoking is allowed except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or a Developed Recreation Site.

- G. Campfire Permits: A permit is required for a portable stove or lantern using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel outside of Developed Recreation Sites. California Campfire Permits can be found on our website. For additional information visit our website at: [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia).

#### V. List of Key Contacts for Coordination:

1. Sierra National Forest
2. Bureau of Land Management - Bakersfield District
4. Inyo National Forest
5. National Park Service - Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks
6. Kern County Fire Department
7. Tule River Reservation Fire Department
8. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
  - a. Tulare Unit
  - b. Fresno-Kings Unit
9. Sheriff Offices
  - a. Fresno County
  - b. Tulare County
  - c. Kern County
10. California Highway Patrol
  - a. Fresno
  - b. Bakersfield
  - c. Visalia and Porterville sub stations
10. California Department of Fish & Game
11. Tribal Communities
12. Army Corps of Engineers

## **VI. Information Coordination**

- A. Fire restrictions and emergency closures require a high level of coordination between adjacent forests and cooperating agencies. It must be continuous from the time of implementation until the restriction or closure is rescinded.
- B. All local news media will be notified. The Public Affairs Officer(s) will assist in developing and distributing news releases.

## **VII. Material and Equipment Coordination**

- A. Signing will be standardized on the Forest using Regional guidelines.

## **VIII. Appendix**

- A. Exhibit A -- Forest Order, Fire Closures and Fire Operations Closures
- B. Exhibit B -- Summary of Fire Restrictions

**EXHIBIT A**

**ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST**

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety and to protect natural resources, the following acts are prohibited within the Sequoia National Forest. This Order is effective from July 14, 2012, through the end of the official 2012 fire season.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except in the Developed Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.52(a).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or the Developed Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.52(d)
3. Operating an internal combustion engine, except on a National Forest System road or trail. 36 CFR 261.52(h).
4. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame. 36 CFR 261.52(i).
5. Using an explosive. 36 CFR 261.52(b).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act. Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a valid California Campfire Permit may use a portable stove or lantern using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel.

These prohibitions are in addition to the prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed at Porterville, California, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

KEVIN B. ELLIOTT  
Forest Supervisor  
Sequoia National Forest

(Closure Due to Wildfire Burning Conditions)

ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

FIRE AREA CLOSURE

\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), and because of high fire danger, the following acts are prohibited on any area, National Forest System road or trail within the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ National Forest, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A).

1. Going into or being upon the closure area which is located (give accurate description of boundary of the area using features such as streams, rivers, trails and roads; or the legal description citing townships, sections and ranges), as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A). 36 CFR 261.52(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the closure area, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A). 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the closure area, as shown in the attached map (Exhibit A). 36 CFR 261.55(a).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Owners or lessees of land in the area.
3. Residents of the area.
4. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Executed in \_\_\_\_\_, California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
KEVIN B. ELLIOTT  
Forest Supervisor  
Sequoia National Forest

(Closure Due to Hazardous Conditions / Fire Operations)

ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
HAZARDOUS FIRE AREA CLOSURE  
\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), and because of fire operations and hazardous conditions, the following act is prohibited on any area, National Forest System road or trail within the (name of fire) Fire area of the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Forest, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A).

1. Going into or being upon the \_\_\_\_\_ Fire area, which is located within (give an accurate description of the boundary or area using features such as streams, rivers, trails, and roads; or the legal description citing townships, sections and ranges and/or Lat/Long), as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A). 36 CFR 261.52 (e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the \_\_\_\_\_ Fire area, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A). 36 CFR 261.54 (e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the \_\_\_\_\_ Fire area, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A). 36 CFR 261.55 (a).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Owners or lessees of land in the area.
3. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in \_\_\_\_\_, California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
KEVIN B. ELLIOTT  
Forest Supervisor  
Sequoia National Forest



## EXHIBIT B

### SUMMARY OF FIRE RESTRICTIONS

	DATES	DEVELOPED OR EXEMPT RECREATION SITES	DISPERSED AREAS
GENERAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS	May 1 until proclaimed abated	No fireworks, explosives, welding or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arrester or muffler	All restrictions for Developed or Exempt Recreation Sites plus: No campfires. No smoking except in an enclosed vehicle, a building or a barren area 3 feet in diameter
FOREST FIRE RESTRICTIONS	When Necessary	No operation of a internal combustion engine except on a road or trail and no campfires except in Developed or Exempt Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit A	No smoking is allowed except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or a Developed or Exempt Recreation Site.
FOREST CLOSURE	When Necessary	Closed to Public	Closed to Public

	DATES	DESIGNATED OHV ROUTES	PERMIT ACTIVITIES	ROADS & TRAILS
GENERAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS	May 1 until proclaimed abated	Open to Public	Fuelwood Permits	Open to Public
FOREST FIRE RESTRICTIONS	When Necessary	Open to Public	Fuelwood Permits	Open to Public
FOREST CLOSURES	When Necessary	Closed to Public	Suspended	Closed to Public

# EXHIBIT A

## SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST KERN RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

### DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

NAME	NAME
Alder Creek	Upper Richbar
Boulder Gulch	Weeping Springs
Breckenridge	Whitewater Voyages Raft Camp
Camp 9	Ant Canyon
Camp 9 Group #1	Brush Creek
Camp 9 Group #2	Calkins Flat
Cedar Creek	Camp 3
Raft Camp	Chemise
Cyrus Canyon OHV	Chico Flat
El Monte	Corral Creek
Evans Flat	Fairview
French Gulch	Fish Creek
Greenhorn Summit	Goldledge
Hobo	Halfway
Hungry Gulch	Headquarters
Kern Park	Horse Meadow
Kern River Tours Raft Camp	Hospital Flat
Live Oak	Kennedy
Live Oak Group	Limestone
Live Oak North	Old Goldledge
Live Oak South	Riverkern Beach
Lower Richbar	Roads End Picnic Area
Main Dam	Springhill
Miracle Hot Springs	Troy Meadow
Oak Flat	Thunderbird
Outdoor Adventures Raft Camp	
Paradise Cove	
Pioneer Point	
Sandy Flat	
Sandy Flat Put-in/Take-out	
Shirley Meadows	
Slick Rock	
Tillie Creek	
Tillie Creek #1	
Tillie Creek #2	
Tillie Creek #3	
Tillie Creek #4	
Upper Cedar Creek Campground	

# EXHIBIT A

## SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST HUME LAKE RANGER DISTRICT

### DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

NAME
Aspen Hollow
Bearskin Meadow Camp
Big Meadow Campground
Big Meadow Trailhead
Big Meadows Recreation Rental Cabin
Boyden Cave
Buck Rock Campground
Camp 4 Campground
Camp 4-1/2 Campground
Camp 4-1/2 Recreation Rental Cabin
Camp San Joaquin
Cedarbrook Picnic Area
Convict Flat Campground
Cove Group Campground
Eshom Campground
Far Horizons
Fir Group Campground
Green Cabin Campground
Heart Meadow Tract
Horse Camp
Horse Corral Pack Station
Hume Lake Campground
Hume Lake Tract
Kellers Ranch
Kirch Flat (South)
Landslide Campground
Logger Flat
Mill Flat Campground
Montecito Sequoia
Powder Can Picnic Area
Princess Campground
Pythian Youth Camp
Quail Flat
Rowell Meadow TH
Rowell Trailhead
Stony Creek Campground
Stony Creek Lodge
Tenmile Campground
Upper Stony Creek Campground

# EXHIBIT A

## SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST WESTERN DIVIDE RANGER DISTRICT

### DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

NAME	RANGER DISTRICT	COUNTY
Belknap	Western Divide	Tulare
Camp Whitsett	Western Divide	Tulare
Camp Wilderness	Western Divide	Tulare
Coy Flat	Western Divide	Tulare
Coy Flat Tract	Western Divide	Tulare
Deer Creek Tract	Western Divide	Tulare
Durrwood Resort	Western Divide	Tulare
Frog Meadow	Western Divide	Tulare
G.T.W. Packtrains	Western Divide	Tulare
Holey Meadow	Western Divide	Tulare
Leavis Flat	Western Divide	Tulare
Lloyd Meadow Camps 1 through 5	Western Divide	Tulare
Long Meadow	Western Divide	Tulare
Lower Coffee Camp	Western Divide	Tulare
Lower Peppermint	Western Divide	Tulare
McIntyre Tract	Western Divide	Tulare
Pyles Camp	Western Divide	Tulare
Quaker Meadow Camp	Western Divide	Tulare
Quaking Aspen	Western Divide	Tulare
Redwood Meadow	Western Divide	Tulare
Soda Springs Tract	Western Divide	Tulare
Spear Creek Tract	Western Divide	Tulare
Thompson Camp	Western Divide	Tulare
Upper Coffee Camp	Western Divide	Tulare
Upper Peppermint	Western Divide	Tulare
White River	Western Divide	Tulare
White River Tract	Western Divide	Tulare
Wishon	Western Divide	Tulare



ORDER NO. 91-1

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), each of the following is prohibited on lands, or Forest Development Roads or Trails under my jurisdiction.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire in any area outside a developed recreation site.  
36 CFR 261.52(a).
  - (a) In Zone A as defined in California Public Resources Code 4413.
  - (b) In Zone B as defined in California Public Resources Code 4413, from May 1 until the date the hazardous fire conditions have been proclaimed abated for the year.
2. Using an explosive. 36 CFR 261.52(b).
3. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, a designated smoking area, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. 36 CFR 261.52(d).
  - (a) In Zone A as defined in California Public Resources Code 4413.
  - (b) In Zone B as defined in California Public Resources Code 4413, from May 1 until the date the hazardous fire conditions have been proclaimed abated for the year.
4. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device. 36 CFR 261.52(f).
5. Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame.  
36 CFR 261.52(i).
  - (a) In Zone A as defined in California Public Resources Code 4413.
  - (b) In Zone B as defined in California Public Resources Code 4413, from May 1 until the date that the hazardous fire conditions have been proclaimed abated for the year.
6. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine, without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either: (1) Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1a; or (2) appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Recommended Practice J335(b) and J350(a). Motor trucks, truck tractors, buses and passenger vehicles, except motorcycles, are not subject to these provisions if the exhaust system is equipped with a muffler as defined in the California Vehicle Code.  
36 CFR 261.52(j).



7. Violating any of the following California State Forest and Fire Laws on National Forest land, or on State or Private land inside the National Forest Boundary, or adjacent thereto, when such act or omission affects, threatens, or endangers property of the United States administered by the Forest Service. 36 CFR 261.52(k).

Public Resources Code

Section

- 4291 - Reduction of Fire Hazards Around Buildings
- 4292 - Powerline Hazard Reduction
- 4293 - Powerline Clearance Required
- 4296.5 Railroad Rights-of-way Clearance
- 4373 - Minimum Requirements for Rubbish Dumps (under permit)
- 4374 - Minimum Requirements for Rubbish Dumps
- 4423 - Written Permit Required for Burning
- 4427 - Clearance and Tools required
- 4428 - Firefighting Tools Required on Industrial Operations
- 4429 - Industrial Camp Tool Cache
- 4430 - Steam-operated Engine Equipment Requirements
- 4431 - Gasoline Power Saw - Firefighting Equipment Required
- 4438 - Forest Product Waste Disposal (enclosed)
- 4439 - Forest Product Waste Disposal (open)
- 4440 - Forest Product Waste Storage
- 4446 - Incinerator Standards

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), each of the following are exempt from this Order:

- a. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- b. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

This order supersedes Order No. 83-2, issued August 16, 1983. These Prohibitions are in addition to the General Prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261. This Order may be made more restrictive by temporary orders issued by the Regional Forester or a Forest Supervisor during periods of fire danger.

Executed in San Francisco, California this 24th day of July 1991.

/s/Laurence Bembry  
for Ronald E. Stewart  
Regional Forester  
Pacific Southwest Region

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000.00 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both. See Title 16 United States Code Section 551.